Circuit bench of Kolkata High Court at Jalpaiguri

409. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of setting up of a circuit bench of the Kolkata High Court at Jalpaiguri; and

(b) the steps initiated by Government to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI. K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (b) A complete proposal from the State of West Bengal with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the Kolkata, for setting up of a bench of Kolkata High Court was received in the year 2000. The setting up of the permanent bench at Jalpaiguri in pursuance to the proposal, is awaiting confirmation of the infrastructureI arrangements for the bench by the Kolkata High Court.

Bringing widow homes under National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism etc.

410. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism is only providing their care services for the persons with autism, cerebral palsy mental retardation and multiple disabilities;

(b) whether Government are aware about the prevailing pathetic conditions of widows of widow-homes at Brindaban in U.P;

(c) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to bring the widow-homes under the purview of the Trust in order to provide help to the widows to lead a meaningful life; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMIJAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India is providing assistance through Government of Uttar Pradesh under the 'SWADHAR', a Scheme for women in difficult circumstances. Grant is also provided for the rehabilitation of widows at. Brindavan under the Schemes of General Grant-in-Aid

Programme for financial assistance in the field of Social Defence to-Non-Organisations.

There is no proposal to bring widow-homes under the purview of the National Trust as the National Trust is governed by the statutory provisions of the National Trust for Welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act 1999 under which it is set up.

Job reservations in private sector

411. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are committed to provide job reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs in private corporate sector as a part of its Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the constitutional validity of such enactments in this regard;

(c) whether Government have also initiated any dialogue with the corporate sector for a consensual approach to the issue; and

(d) if so, the response of the corporate sector thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBllLAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) According to the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government has to initiate a national dialogue with all political parties, industry and other organizations to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe youth. Accordingly, 218 organisations of the industry and trade in the corporate world have been addressed to elicit their views/comments on affirmative action including reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Private Sector. On receiving their response, meetings will be held with the industry and thereafter, consultations will be held with the political parties and other organizations on this issue. However, no enactment is proposed.

Grants to voluntary organisations

†412. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that voluntary organizations are provided with grants under the Artificial Limbs Equipment Supply Scheme for providing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.